CLAIMS:

1.   A method of encoding a media signal, comprising the steps of:
- defining a range of code sequences that are generated by a first encoder in response to encoding respective groups of one or more media signal samples by said first encoder,
- using a second encoder for actually encoding the groups of media signal samples into second code sequences,
- assigning to each second code sequence a selected one of said first code sequences in accordance with a mapping table, and
- transmitting the selected first code sequences to represent the information signal.

2.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second encoder has a higher encoding quality than the first encoder.

3.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and/or second encoder are quantizers, and the respective code sequences are quantized signal samples.

4.   A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the first quantizer is a scalar quantizer and the second quantizer is a vector quantizer.

5.   An apparatus for encoding a media signal, the apparatus comprising circuitry for implementing the steps of a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4.

6.   A method of decoding an encoded information signal, comprising the steps of:
- receiving first code sequences associated with a first decoder,
- replacing said first code sequences by second code sequences in accordance with a mapping table, and
- decoding the second code sequences using a second decoder.

7.   A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first and-or second code sequences are quantized signal samples, and the respective decoders are inverse quantizers.

8.   A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first inverse quantizer is an inverse scalar quantizer and the second inverse quantizer is an inverse vector quantizer.

5   9.   An apparatus for decoding an encoded information signal, the apparatus comprising circuitry for implementing the steps of a method as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8.

10.   A computer program product enabling a programmable device when executing
10   said computer program product to function as an apparatus defined in claim 5 or 9.